FAIR WARNING:

OR, A

Z.34.10[12]

Freſh Taſte of *French* Government at Home.

BEING

A Demonſtration from late Matter of Fact;

THAT

French Arbitrary Principles, can never Conſiſt with a Legal and Limited Conſtitution; and that a Freedom from the *Iron Yoke*, cannot be bought too Dear, whatever it Coſt us.

Moſt Humbly Addreſs'd to the Noble Patriots and Guardians of our Rights, both Sacred and Civil, the Parliament of *Great-Britain*.

By *William Biſſet*, Eldeſt Brother of the Collegiate Church and Hoſpital of St. *Katherine*, near the *Tower*.

——— *Ex pede Herculem.*

Jura negat ſibi nata; nihil non arrogat armis. Hor.

LONDON:

Printed for, and Sold by *Benj. Bragge*, at the *Raven* in *Pater-noſter Row*; and by the Book-ſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. 1710.

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To the Right Honourable, and ever Memorable Patriots and Pillars of our Church and State, the Parliament of *Great Britain*, now Aſſembled.

May it pleaſe Your Honours,

I *Should not preſume to Addreſs myſelf in this manner to ſo Auguſt an Aſſembly, but in diſcharge of a Publick Truſt, hich I cannot Decline, and dare not Betray. I am at preſent ldeſt Member, and, as I humbly conceive, a ſort of Guardian ill we have a Maſter, which we have been without theſe Eight onths) of a very ancient Royal Foundation, whoſe hard Fate has been for near Thirty Years, to be under the Government of rbitrary and Tyrannical Maſters; and the Management of opiſh Treaſurers and Surveyors: (one of them being now a riest in* France) *againſt which moſt ſcandalous and dangerous ouſe, there is at preſent no Proviſion, nor Penalty in our Law, uch Church-Offices not coming within the Compaſs of the* Teſt-ct.) *I have theſe Three Years, with great Labour, Peril and ft, been ſeeking the Redreſs of theſe flaming Abuſes, (and ner I could not, becauſe it was impoſſible in the late Queen owager's Life, who was our Patroneſs, and without whoſe mmiſſion nothing could be done, to grapple with her Firſt Fa-rite.) I had juſt brought it to an Iſſue: For after the laſt hear-g before the Lord High Chancellour, (which was* January *the th) his Lordſhip was pleaſed to declare, that I had prov'd my arge, (for indeed not one Syllable of it was deny'd by the Ma-'s Council) and that the more Light he had into our Matters, more he was ſatisfy'd of the Juſtice of my Complaint; and he ſaw how Matters ſtood, he would conſider what to de-mine: But before the Determination,* April 8th, *the Maſter*

suddenly died. I have since waited on his Lordship, to
whether my Pains, and Charges, and what the Hospital an
Members have been wrong'd of, (which last amounts to above
Thousand Pound) must not be considered; especially there
neither Widow nor Child, and a considerable Estate, both
and Personal left. His Lordship told me, that had the M
lived, he would have made him refund, because he had him
the Lash, and could bring him to his own Terms; but th
could not reach the Executors, because it is a personal Cas
the Parson of Homeby *in* Northamptonshire, *who has*
wrong'd several Years of great part of his dues, comes upon
and I hear they have agreed the Matter with him. I most
do refer it to your Honours Consideration, (for it seems no
Power can relieve us) whether a Church and Hospital shou
have what they are Tyrannically and Sacrilegiously depri
made good out of the Delinquent's Estate, as well as a
Minister; and whether when God and the Poor are both r
it is not a Publick Concern, that Satisfaction be made,
expect the Divine Blessing.

For which, upon Your

Honour's Persons and Counsels,

Your most Humble Petitioner,

Shall ever pray,

Will. B

The Introduction.

I Have always endeavour'd to the beſt of my Skill, to keep out of *Priſon*, and out of the *Preſs*, the rather, becauſe theſe Two lay a Man at every one's mercy, and who will may clap his Action upon him; and (what is bad, or worſe) plague him with his Impertinence; and ere's no getting out of the Way; you are faſt, and muſt de by't. The firſt of theſe I thank God I have hitherto eſ-p'd, how long I may, he only knows: And for the diſ-urge of what I think my Duty, I truſt in God I ſhall never ead or decline it. But the Printers Stocks I have been twice y'd in, and was ſufficiently baited and mobb'd both times; hich might have ſerv'd for a Warning, how I came into that nchanted Limbo again But I have this to ſay for my ſelf, hich made me eaſy amidſt all the Clamour about my Ears, hat I could not poſſibly help it, (the juſteſt excuſe that can be onceived) For in 2 Caſes neceſſity is laid upon us, (a moral Neceſſity at leaſt) that is to vindicate our ſelves when loaded with falſe and villainous Aſperſions, and to undeceive the World, when abus'd with ſtrong and dangerous Deluſions. had both theſe Pleas in good Meaſure before, but now I have hem in much greater Perfection.

The Wiſeman tells us, *Prov.* 22. 1. *A good name is rather to be choſen than great riches*; and to be robb'd of that, is the reateſt wrong we can ſuſtain in this World; and if we are ilent in ſuch a Caſe, we confeſs the Charge, and are, if not iding and aſſiſting, at leaſt conſenting to the Robbery, and o the *Mute* becomes *Felo-de-ſe*: But in my caſe it would be eally a kind of Self-murder; for I am publickly charg'd with no leſs Crimes than Robbery and Burglary, nay down-right Sacriledge, (for the Scene is laid in the Church) and de-liberate Perjury: and when not only my good name, but what when once loſt, 'tis much harder to recover, my Ears are in danger, and my very Neck too, for ſo it would, if theſe Crimes were prov'd, as well as charg'd upon me; 'tis high time to

draw

draw One's Pen; and ſure any Jury that is not ſhame pack'd, will acquit a Man for printing or fighting *Se de dendo.*

My Caſe, in ſhort, is this, which the following Narra will more fully open, and ſet in a true Light. I have b between 9 and 10 Years a Member of a Collegiate Church der the Government of a very great Man in ſome Reſpe (but unhappily for us) born and bred in *France*, and cording to the grand Pattern at *Verſailles*, who gives, or wo give Laws to all the World, (it being an old, but too tru Maxim, *Regis ad exemplum totus componitur orbis*) all be ambitious to reſemble what they gaze at moſt, thoſe who ſet in the higheſt Orbs: Our Rights have been quite o look'd, as beneath the regard of one ſo vaſtly above us, whole Conſtitution violated, our Statutes laid aſide, (as much waſte Parchment, for abſolute Powers can ſave Charge of great Codes and Statute-books, which is ſome p of Husbandry, and ſay with the Philoſopher, *omnia mea me porto*,) tho' made and ratify'd but 10 Years ſince by the High Chancellor *Somers*, our Viſitor, by Special Commi on, and doubtleſs one of the greateſt Sages this Age has h honoured with, who could not but know the extent of Power, and I'm confident would take care not to exceed Our property alſo (as I conceive, and doubt not to make pear) has been invaded; being deprived for ſome Years, near 2 Thirds of what (had our Statutes been obſerv'd) ſhould have received; beſides many other Grievances, (I believe our Caſe cannot be match'd in *Great Britain*) the dreſs of which I thought it high time, (as being partly a Tr repoſed in me who was the eldeſt Reſident) to ſeek. Accor ingly I made my Application to Authority about 2 years a half ago.

While this Matter has been depending, two as horrid Sl ders have been rais'd of me as ever were forg'd by the Fat of Lies. One of theſe Slanders was vented at a very no Coffee Houſe in the heart of the City, to make it more di fuſive, before a great Company, moſt of them Clergy, a a Friend and old School Fellow of mine, well known to t Lord Chancellor, aſſured me, (and he is *fide dignus*) that was preſent and heard it: That I broke open our Comm Cheſt which is under 3 Locks, beſides 2 doors of the Churc that muſt be broke open to come at it, (and I had then a K to none of them all) took out the Books belonging to the Ho pital, and without any Order or Warrant, carried them my own head to the Lord Chanceſſor's.

The other was rais'd in the Lord Chief Juſtice's Chambers, an *Iriſh* Papiſt, who pretends to be Surveyor, Receiver, Paymaſter of our Church and Hoſpital, before my face. upon the News of my revolt, and that I was practiſing break our Yoke; to be reveng'd of me, the Maſter, with and another Counſellor, came to St. *Katherine*'s, and ile they knew I was gone to the Lord High Chancellors by Lordſhip's Order, without any Shadow of legal Power Proceſs, (nor do they now pretend it) and without leav- one Minutes notice at my Houſe, to get my Goods re- v'd, threw them out in the Way, and pull'd down a large handſome Stable, which I built at my own great coſt, and ich they had all view'd, and lik'd, 2 years and a half be- , and which I had been peaceably poſſeſt of without one able ſaid of it to that hour; to the great ſurprize and ter- r of my Family, my Wife eſpecially, who was great with ld, and has (as moſt *Britiſh* Women) a mighty dread of Papiſts: a method of bringing an Ejectment unknown ngſt us (whatever my Title were, which is not certainly e determined by ſuch a violent and ſummary proceeding) no where practic'd but in the new Conqueſts, and then fair notice of military Execution. Knowing they had d quite coutrary to our Statutes, (which I ſhall quote at End) I ſwore a Riot upon the Popiſh Surveyor, (who was main Actor, and never ſtir'd from the Spot, till he ſaw it with the Ground) and brought him before the Ld. Chief ice. (the Affidavit you have toward the End with other ers) he heard us both; and when he diſmiſt us, the Pa- charg'd me with Perjury before all the Company, in the i Chamber. ſaying, he only wiſh'd it were a Court of ord, that he might more eaſily convict me; however, he d the Clark of the Warrants for a Copy of the Affidavit, o' I had given him the free peruſal of it before at his Cham- in order to a proſecution; he has not yet begun (as I have e than once preſs'd him, which might poſſibly have ſav'd his Labour) pretending he had not time ſince *March* 1ſt , to go to Counſel, tho' he lives in the Temple, and is a e of a Counſellor himſelf, but will not take the Oaths to Government, that he may be admitted to the Bar.

ow let any thinking Man judge, whether I ought not both uty and Prudence, if I am permitted, to ſpeak for my ſelf ſtop the ſpreading of theſe abominable Slanders, which like Wild-fire among the Party; and which way can I do ut by publiſhing the Fact from Firſt to laſt, and plenti-

fully

fully declaring the Thing as it is. I have some little Capacity, and much greater obligation of Service to God, and my Country, and therefore am bound to take some Care of my Reputation, that I be not a despis'd broken Vessel, in which is no profit. If God see fit to lay me by I must be content, but I am not allow'd to incapacitate my self. Besides, I have no other way left me to bear my Testimony, and file a Claim for hereafter. I would have entered my Protest against the lawless violence in our Chapter-book, (which is my undoubted Right, as a Member and eldest Resident) but that was flatly deny'd me, and the Book forcibly taken from me by the Master: therefore since I cannot do as I would, I must do as I can.

My other Motive to appear in Print, is to undeceive if possible, some deluded Souls, who flatter themselves with a vain conceit, that *Perkin* may be set upon the Throne by *French Power*, and yet property and liberty not greatly suffer, nor Papists be put in possession of our Churches: whereas we cannot keep them out even now; and *if in the land of peace wherein we trusted they have wearied us, than what shall we do in the swelling of Jordan.* Prodigious phrenzy, or rather perfect fascination! I can scarce forbear crying out, *Ye fools and blind, who hath betwitched you that ye should not believe the truth?* 'Tis hard to say whether they are most objects of our pity or indignation; and the best Plea they can have, is, *that a deceived heart hath turned them aside, that they cannot deliver their Souls, neither say is there not a lye in our right hand?* Now here I profess to graff or tack (if you will, because some are fond of that term) upon the Reverend Mr. *Hoadley*, who has done the Publick eminent Service against the *French Partisans* and their *enslaving Principles*, which *eat as doth a Canker*, and who, in my poor Judgment, as far exceeds his Adversaries the *Lestian Faction*, in the strength of his Arguments, the Beauty of his Style, and variety of his Learning, as in the goodness and honesty of his Cause, and I could never yet see any thing like an Answer to him; His Assize Sermon at *Hertford*, wherein he gives a true account of Arbitrary Government, was (if ever any) a word in Season, and a word with Power, and let me subjoyn in the wise Man's terms, *Prov.* 22. 21. *That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth, that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send to thee.* I can make to my cost, practical application to his Doctrine; and from long dear-bought Experience, *Set to my Seal that this is true*, and therefore it concerns us all, as we prize our most valuable Blessings, to be aware of persons bred up in Arbitrary Principles, who be-

ſo ſtrong and natural an Averſion to *Laws and Statutes*, as we to *Galley-Oars and wooden Shooes*; and conſequently can never be right (whatever Copy they may give of their Countenance) *to our happy Conſtitution.*

I ſhall cloſe the Introduction with three ſolemn Proteſtations, for here I may enter them, though I could not in our Chapter-Book.

1. That if I know my own Heart ('tis indeed a Leſſon of uncommon Difficulty, *for the Heart is deceitful above all things*) I am not acted by private Reſentment, or Deſire of Revenge; much leſs am I for any kind of Perſecution, or *rewarding the Daughter of* Babylon *as ſhe has ſerved us*, only I would have their Nails par'd, that they may not after they have pull'd down our Houſes, pluck our Eyes out too, and lead us blindfold to the Stake. Tho' I might have hop'd for fairer Quarter in *Turkey* or *Barbary*, and my Wrongs and Provocations have exceeded the ordinary Meaſures of Patience, and might have fir'd a Temper more calm than mine (which I muſt confeſs to be ſomewhat of the hotteſt) yet I have through Grace, ſo far overcome Nature, as earneſtly to beg of God, and deſire others to do it for me, that if this Attempt be not for his Glory, and the *Proteſtant Intereſt* (for I know no other at this Time of Day, and that I think is dearer to me than my own) I might be diverted from it, and all my Wrongs and Hardſhips (which are many and great) might be buried in Oblivion; though Loſers certainly may have leave to complain, and I can ſee no Reaſon why a free People ſhould be rid like *French Pack-Horſes*, and never ſo much as utter their Preſſures.

I 2*dly* proteſt, that to the beſt of my Knowledge and Memory (which has not yet greatly fail'd me, eſpecially in Matters of yeſterday) I have kept to ſtrict Truth, and the Reader need not fear to have his Belief impos'd on; for if any the leaſt Falſhood can be prov'd, (and I ſhall be ſifted like Wheat) I am ſure to hear of it with a Vengeance: for there wants neither Power, Prejudice, nor Purſe to ſtrike home and follow the Blow: and I am not ſo fond of Ruine nor Revenge neither, (however provok'd) as to pay ſo dear for it; though withal, I have ſo much of a Publick Spirit, that I had rather one Man were ruin'd (though myſelf were the Man) than a whole Nation, and even late Poſterity enſlav'd under the *Iron Yoke of* France *and* Antichriſt.

3*dly*, I here declare before-hand, That I think not myſelf bound to take any Notice, or beſtow the Pains of an Anſwer

upon *anonymous Libels*; and therefore if any one shall think fit to write against me, let him fairly set his Name in the Front as I have always done, and then (by the help of God) he shall have a Reply. About five Years ago, upon a like Occasion, I was pelted by a Pack of scurrilous Scriblers (about half a Score as I remember, for I thought it not worth while to keep Account) some with a little Sense, or to quote for once a Popish Poet (tho' I neither like their Verse nor their Prose)

Much Malice *mingled with a little Wit*, Hind *and* Pan.

And most with meer *Billingsgate*, not guilty of one Grain, and I minded 'em as much as yelping Curs at my Heels in the Street, or Geese on a Common: the same Respect they must look for now; for he that writes what he dares not own, seems to be either Knave or Fool, or both, (I always except modest Men who conceal their own Names that God may have the Glory). But for such as enter the Lists in a polemical way, 'tis fit we should see whom we have to deal with, and not fight in the dark, which must needs make mad Work: The Heathen Poet had much more Honor than these Blades and their haughty *Patron*, who plagues all the World with his Blood-thirsty Blockheads, that venture their thick Skulls and unthinking Brains for his Glory, and he laughs, no doubt, in his Sleeve, to think how cheap it comes, while he lies stewing in Luxury, at *Versailles*, and never ventures his Corps which is full of the Sins of his Youth (the only Proof I know of his Prowess), within reach of a Bullet, much less of a Sword: how unlike our 2 brave *Heroes*, *the glorious King* William and the *Great* Marlborough, as much greater indeed than his *Gallick Majesty*, as the victorious *Corbulo* than the mighty but mischievous *Nero*. But to return to our honest Heathen (honester by far than the Most Christian King) whom this turbulent Monarch has justled out of the Way (as he would all his Neighbours, *till he be placed alone in the midst of the Earth.*)

Cædimus inq; vicem præbemus crura sagittis,
Vivitur hoc pacto, sic novimus. Pers.

If they'll kick fair, and not basely come behind to trip up my Heels, I care not much if I have a Game or two at Foot Ball with them; but if they skulk behind the Scenes, and play least in sight, while I am on the Stage as a Mark for their Malice; I declare once more, I am for no *Combats Incog.* and

think I may come off as honourably as a Perſon of ſome Bulk and Stature when challeng'd by a dwarfiſh Skeleton. Pray tell the little Gentleman, if he'll make himſelf as fair a Mark as I am, I'll give him the Meeting; but I think it not worth while, nor am I bound in Honor to puſh at the Edge of a Razor, or fight with a Feather.

Advertiſement.

Advertiſement.

THE greateſt Part of theſe Papers were calculated for the late intended Invaſion, about which time they were tranſcrib'd and actually deliver'd for the Preſs, (but that Storm ſoon blowing over) they have lain by ever ſince, as what I thought there was no Occaſion for, (and I never reckon'd my own Affairs worth the Pains and Trouble of Printing,) for which Reaſon alſo ſeveral Pages containing perſonal Outrages and Indignities to my ſelf, as alſo ſome Clauſes in the other Papers, of a private Nature, are omitted, and nothing put in but what I conceive to be down-right Invaſions of Property and the Right of the Subject; my Deſign being only to diſcharge my Truſt, and give the World an Idea of *French* Government, from which, as the greateſt of Temporal Evils,

May our good Lord deliver us.

A True and Faithful

ACCOUNT

Of divers Arbitrary, Illegal, and Injurious

PRACTICES

IN THE

COLLEGIATE CHURCH

AND

ROYAL HOSPITAL

OF

St. Katherine's *near the* Tower,

Contrary to the Statutes and Charters of Foundation. From the Year 1700 to 1709.

IT fell to my lot by a wise tho' severe providence in *January* 1700, to leave a place of greater value about 16 miles off where I had spent between 6 and 7 Years with great quiet and Satisfaction; having never had any difference (as turbulent a person as some represent me) that I can remember with any of my parish, (tho' very large and populous, and full of Gentry, with some of the Quality) and to remove to this Scene of constant Trouble, and Vexation of Spirit, where *my Soul hath long dwelt among Lions* as well as other them. However, the only wise God, who brings Good out of Evil, has given me this Advantage by it, that as I never had so just a Notion, so neither so hearty an Abhorrence of

of *Arbitrary Government*, and ſo high an Eſteem of a leg
and limited Eſtabliſhment, as now that I have experimenta
ly found the Difference.

It was by Miſtake, you may be ſure, that I made ſuch
Exchange, concluding our Statutes (which I accidentally
a Sight of, or perhaps I might never have ſeen them at
before I accepted the Place) would be kept, and then inde
it had been the more deſirable of the Two. Upon this Pr
ſumption, both I and my generous Friends who got it wi
out my Seeking or Knowledge, concluded I had *got a Pri*
but have ſince found to my Sorrow that I *caught a Tart*
nay, among the *Crim-Tartars* I might have met with be
Uſage. My Admiſſion, I muſt own, was very quick and ea
(as the Grant was given unſight unſeen) it was ne
once ask'd whether I were a Papiſt or a Proteſtant, a Sc
lar, or an Ideot, Sober or a Sot; but only, Whether
were a *peaceable Man*: the Meaning may be eaſily gue
at, for the Brother whom I ſucceeded, had given much
ſturbance, in the introducing the new and modiſh Form
Government; (this being deſign'd, as I ſuppoſe, for an E
in ordine ad,) and had got the former Maſter expell'd
the like.

But before I proceed, I muſt give the Reader ſome Acco
of our Conſtitution, and of what Members our Chapter
made up. It conſiſts of a Maſter (who according to
Charters of Foundation, ſhould be in Holy Orders, or a
of Laws) three Brothers and three Siſters who have all
qual Votes, and a Chapter-Clark, and a Surveyor and
ceiver. The Brothers and Siſters are term'd in ſome of
old Records *Pauperes fratres*, &c. the poor Brothers and
ſters of St. *Katherine*, and *God knows* we are all poor enou
of Conſcience; effectual Care has been taken that this
Part of our Conſtitution be preſerv'd, becauſe Poverty
eſſential to moſt Religious Orders. The Maſter wa
Lieutenant General, renowned for the compleat Victo
gain'd with a ſmall Army, and the vaſt Execution in
Weſt, (for tho' *M. G. Kerk* had the Name, he was too
deſt to intercept the Glory of the Day, but declared (
have heard) that what he did, was by the Order of his
perior Officer: He had, till of late, ſo many other Title
made our Grants and Leaſes tedious in reading (they be
all inſerted) ſo that altho', as I obſerv'd, we are all-eq
Voters, his Name took up about two Lines in a Par
ment, and all ours about a quarter of one, (as Shrubs

en both hid and ſtarved under a ſpreading Oak or a ſtately Cedar). He carried all things right or wrong which way he leas'd; and we might not ſo much as proteſt againſt it, being thought for the Good of our Souls to exerciſe *explicite Faith* and *paſſive Obedience*. For my Part, I ſolemnly declare in 8 Years time, (and I never fail'd one Chapter) I was never able that I remember, to carry one Point, nor ever offer'd any Thing that was not preſently oppoſed, and turnfully thrown out; and to learn me Patience. I was told it is not decent and like a Gentleman, to claſh with ſo great a Man as the Maſter. I have indeed been often aſtoniſh'd that ever a *George* and *Garter* ſhould ſtoop ſo low, as to be a Member (tho' the Chief) of an old ruinous Hoſpital, and exerciſe ſo much Humility and Self-Denial, as to ſit 3 or 4 Hours which he was forc'd to do ſometimes if he would have his Money with 2 poor Black-Coats (not worthy to be his Chaplains) and 3 old Women. *Quid non mortalia pectora cogit Auri ſacra fames?* And the Emperor *Veſpaſian* had a ſharp Noſe, and was ſharp ſet too, when he ſmelt to the Urine-Money, and gravely ſaid, *Dulcis odor Lucri ex re qualibet.*

But what I have hitherto recounted, are the more tolerable Evils becauſe in common amongſt us, tho' not altogether; for I have always been us'd (ſince he found he had miſtaken his Man) much more roughly than the reſt; they might have ſometimes an hard Look, or Word, but I have been under one conſtant ſettled Frown which all his Courtartifice could not ſmooth over. When I have waited on him at his Apartments to deſire a Chapter after long Delay, (Buſineſs depending and our Stock being very low,) I was encounter'd with ſuch a Storm of Scorn and Fury amidſt his numerous Train of Servants, for daring to remind him of his Duty, that I was forc'd to run the Gantlope, and glad was I to skamper off with a whole Skin, but (thought I) catch me there again and I'll give you my Head.

Being quite wearied out (after about 8 Years Patience) with ſo many Wrongs, Affronts, and Enormities, which the following Papers will give a fuller Account of, and therefore have been the briefer in the Recital of them) and I ſhall ſingle out only ſuch as are needful to give a true State of our Caſe; (for all that I have wrote in rough and fair Draughts, will make much above a Quire of Paper:) at length I reſolv'd to look out for Redreſs; but becauſe the Chancery-way which my Predeceſſor took againſt Sr. *James Butler*, I fear'd would prove too chargeable (it having coſt him, as his Widow has often

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ten assur'd me, at least 300 *l.*) I determin'd to try what might be done at Court, (for Queen *Dowager* being lately dead, I knew the Master would need a new Grant from her Majesty, which I hop'd to stop, at least till our Grievances were redress'd). Accordingly I put our Case into the Hands of the Secretary of State; and wrote at the same time the following Letter to the Lord *Somers* who was fully acquainted with our Matters, and had been withal extremely injur'd, or rather insulted.

My it please your Lordship,

BEING not so happy as to have any Friend to introduce me to your Lordship, I hope your Lordship's Goodness, and the Necessity of our Case will be some Excuse for this Method of Address. The Hospital of St. Katherine *(whereof I am the eldest Resident Member) is infinitely indebted to your Lordship for the excellent Rules your Lordship gave us, the Wisdom and Equity of which I have often admir'd; but I must acquaint your Lordship, that the present Master has been so far from observing them, that he would never allow them (tho' it has been often mov'd) to be read in the Chapter, nor would he ever hear of them by his good Will; and in numberless Instances (which I am ready to prove when call'd to it) has gone directly counter to them. So that our Government is as arbitrary and more negligent than in Sr.* Ja. Butler's *Time; for there has never been the least Hospitality kept, nor has any Member once eat or drunk at his Charge in 9 Years time; and instead of the 4th Part of Lands and the 6th of Houses, which your Lordship prescrib'd to be reserv'd out of the Rents, for advancing the Brothers Stipends, he would never yet suffer a 10th to be rais'd; nay, he has taken away the poor Beads-womens Profit of the Pall, and has given part of it to the Clerk whom your Lordship so justly censur'd, and who by the Master's Connivance, insults us all. I have put our Case into My Lord* Sund---ds *Hands, to whom I found Means to be introduc'd and recommended last Tuesday. But a Word from your Lordship either to him or the Queen, would procure us Relief; for there are 2 Sisters Places now vacant, and we hear the Master cannot fill them up for want of a new Commission from her Majesty: If your Lordship in Justice both to your self and us, will be instrumental toward the Redress of our Grievances and Oppressions, and get this* French *Yoke broken from our Necks, we shall all be bound to pray for your Lordship's Health and Happiness both Temporal and Eternal, and none more heartily than*

Your Lordship's

Most Humble and Obedient Servant

W.

The Memorial deliver'd to the Lord *Sunderland*, was much to the ſame effect, which I ſhall therefore omit. But becauſe I would (to make ſure work) employ all the Intereſt poſſible; knowing the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*'s great Reſolution and Zeal for Juſtice, I humbly implor'd his Aſſiſtance too in carrying on the Suit; and having drawn up the moſt of our Grievances under the enſuing Heads, I ſent them in a Letter to His Grace.

The Grievances of the Reſident Brothers of the Collegiate Church, and Hoſpital, of St. Katherine's, *near the* Tower.

1ſt, IT is our great Unhappineſs, being an Eccleſiaſtick Body, to have a Military Man for our Maſter, who being more us'd to Camps than Churches, often Swears, and profanely uſes the Name of God in our Chapters, and cannot bear Reproof, Saying, It is not any place to Correct him.

2dly, To have a Peer, and Knight of the Garter, Head of ſo mean a Body: Who keeps us at ſuch a ſtately diſtance, that we know not well how to ſpeak to him, either in or out of Chapter: For when I have waited on him at his Lodgings about neceſſary buſineſs of the Hoſpital, I have been receiv'd with utmoſt Scorn and Indignation, for preſuming to remind him of his Duty; and when I have wrote to him on the ſame account, it has been reſented and complain'd of as Pride and Inſolence.

3dly, Having the Gift of all our Places, to whom he grants one, it is with a ſecret *Proviſo* not to contradict him; which if they preſume to do (whatever neceſſity there be for it) Complaint is preſently made to thoſe who Recommended 'em to him; and moſt of the Members have own'd to me, that they dare not gain-ſay him, for fear of diſobliging their Friends on whom they depend.

4thly, Being a Native of a Country where *Arbitrary Government* prevails, and us'd to an *Arbitrary Court*, he will be ty'd to no Rules, but has gone directly Counter to all or moſt of our Statutes.

5thly, He has brought in an *Iriſh* Papiſt to be Receiver and Surveyor of our Church and Hoſpital; and he having all our Money, we can receive nothing but what and when he pleaſes, and we are ſure never to have one Farthing that he can poſſibly hinder us of.

6thly, Tho' there are great Revenues belonging to the Hoſpital, of which the Maſter has almoſt one half to enable him to keep (as our Statutes require) good Hoſpitality; there has not the leaſt been kept, nor has any one Member (that we know of) been one Penny the better for him.

7thly, The Reſident Brothers, who Preach twice every Lord's Day, and at all other uſual times; and read Divine Service every Day, and Viſit the Sick, and perform all other Miniſterial Duties in the Neighbourhood (which is unprovided of a Miniſter) beſides a conſtant trouble

in perusing and signing Certificates for or about Seamen, &c. have but 14*l.* *per Annum* (tho' by the Rules the Stipends should be 40 *l.* and had been so long before now, if the Master had suffer'd those Rules to take place) and never had the least Collection from the People (who are generally very Poor) and their share of Fines for above two Years has not amounted to 50 *s.* *per Annum*, whereas they are oblig'd to reside and keep House, which cannot be done for four times as much; wherefore 'tis humbly hop'd and desired that their stipend of 40 *l.* *per An.* (whereof they have been illegally depriv'd) may be allow'd to the Brothers (who do all the Work) out of the Publick Revenue of the Hospital.

8thly, Whereas our Statutes require that frequent Chapters be held, we have had but one these eight Months; so that all our Affairs are in great Confusion, our Church and other Buildings extremely out of repair, great Debts unpaid, and our Credit so low that scarce any Tradesmen will work for us. Wherefore 'tis most humbly desir'd, that our Case may be taken into speedy consideration, and before a New Patent is granted by Her Majesty, our Hardships and Grievances redrest, and a competent Subsistence allow'd us.

And Your Graces Petitioner (as in Duty bound)
shall Ever PRAY.

I heard that his Grace was pleas'd so far to Intereſt himself in our Wrongs and Grievances, as to lay them before the Council; but whether that were true or not, I am sure he expreſt a very generous Concern for, and Resentment of them; and as he promis'd to lend me a helping Hand, so I found the effect of it in my after-proceedings: for he said he was heartily griev'd to see a *Royal Charity* so foully abus'd, and that 'twas enough to discourage all future Charities of the like kind.

By the Intereſt (I suppose) of these great Persons, there was a stop of six or seven Months before the Earl of *Feversham* could gain his Point; and a report about Town that the Master's Place was granted to another: But to my great Mortification, sometime in *July* 170[illegible] he came down again amongst us, but never shew'd the Chapter (as he ought to have done any Grant from Her Majesty (which should have been read before us) as all other Grants, Patents and Leases are; and I suppose he should have taken the Oath of Allegiance to the QUEEN (which he had never done here before) nor did he so much as tell us he had any Grant; but put in two Sisters (as it seem'd to us) by his own Authority (for so in all likelyhood he would have it believ'd: And now he grew more Arrogant, Imperious and Domineering than ever; having understood (no doubt) the Attempts against him, and since they prov'd ineffectual, he concluded he might reign Lord and Master for the future without controul: Having appointed a Chapter on a day that I could not possibly attend, without failing a Congregation to whom I had appointed to Preach; and desiring it might be the next or any other day in the Week; he sent me word he would complain of me to the QUEEN: And therefore finding what I had to trust to

that he was resolv'd to do his utmost, to get me out, or make me uneasy in my Place; and having made many Remonstrances to him of his illegal Proceedings, and desir'd the Redress of them in vain. I at length determin'd (whatever it cost) to seek Relief from Authority, but I would first give *Fair Warning*.

After this there were many, and mighty Attempts (if possible) to baffle me, and stifle the matter. My Lord Chancellor was teas'd from day to day with continual Applications of this kind (for there was more than one or two concern'd to get all husht up.) And some endeavours were us'd to take me off: I had very good Words given me, and was promis'd an amends for my Out-house, if I would let my Prosecution drop; but that I thought Base and Dishonourable, and little better than a *Breach of Trust*: I was inform'd from above that the Parties concern'd cry'd *Peccavi*, and promis'd to be wondrous good for the future; but I had little reason to take their words; and therefore persisted in my suit for Justice, and the Lord Chancellor sent me word (very Honourably) I should have it: And bad me draw up my Charge once more, with the Proofs against every Article in the Margin, which I undertook to give: I did accordingly: And gave in a Schedule of the several Leases that had been Irregularly past, and how much the reserv'd Rent in each was short of what the Statutes requir'd; as also the Receivers Accounts for about four Years; in which it appear'd to demonstration, how many Scores, if not Hundreds, of Pounds the Hospital, as well as we, had been wrong'd of, by setting the Master's private Expences to the publick Account. His Lordship took all down with him into the Country at *Whitsontide*, to peruse at his leisure; and at his return sent me word, That he was fully satisfy'd in every point but one, to which I drew up an Answer at large, which (for ought I have heard to the contrary) gave Satisfaction; the substance of it is contained in the Letter dated *August* the 5th, 1708. At length all Preliminaries being settled, we had a long hearing before his Lordship of about three Hours, *July* the 16th, 1708. in which his Lordship read over our Statutes one by one, and I made appear the several notorious Breaches of them. Upon the whole his Lordship was pleas'd to declare [That if he visited Publickly, he should be oblig'd to expel all that consented to such illegal Practices;] and further, he told the Master's Council with not a little warmth, [That the Lord *Somers* had told him, that he had scarce met with a greater Grief in all his Life, than to find himself so basely us'd, that when he had bestowed so much Time, and so many Hearings (*no less than Thirty*) on that Hospital, and had drawn up the Statutes with so much Care, and Pains, and Study, to find assoon as his Back was turn'd, all trampl'd upon, it was a Cut to his very Heart.]

I may possibly have mistaken a word or so, but I appeal to his Lordship, and the Council, for the Truth of this Report, which I afterwards made in our Chapter. We had not time to go through above half our Statutes at this Hearing, and therefore the rest were reserv'd till another Opportunity. Being very desirous of dispatch,

(that I might be rid of these Incumbrances, and attend my Studies without distraction) I sent the following Letter to the Lord Chancellor, just before he went into the Country for that Vacation.

St. *Katherine*'s Hospital, *August* 5. 1708.

My LORD,

SINCE Your Lordship was pleas'd to own our Business to be momentous, and properly to belong to your Lordship's Cognisance there needs I hope no Apology, for laying before your Lordship (what seems more seasonable now than when Parliament, and Term-time come on) this farther account of our Case.

'Tis plain we have been wrong'd of 1000 *l.* (a sum well worth complaining for) which should have purchas'd us, according to the Statutes 100 *l. per An.* and had done it four Years ago to compleat our Salary to 40 *l. per An.* 'Tis also plain that the Master has had for his share 400 *l.* of our Money; (which I affirm'd before your Lordship, and the Council did not offer to deny) consequently 400 *l.* more of the Brothers Money went to the Publick Stock, which sum and more has been expended on the Master's own occasions, as I have prov'd from the Receiver's Accounts; and 200 *l.* was given to the Sisters to gain their Vote, and make a Majority against us.

Your Lordship was pleas'd to say, That since the Rent was not rais'd (which was our evident Interest) what accru'd more in fine should have been ours; and I can see no reason why the Master should go off with his illegal Gains, and take the advantage of his own Injustice; especially since we have Families, and he none but himself to provide for. I humbly conceive Restitution may be as necessary a point of Law as Divinity.

But 'tis reply'd against us that we consented: As I consent to deliver my Purse (for that too is my own Act and Deed when I cannot keep it) especially if I can get some part return'd to bear my Charges.

But (after all) how does that Consent appear? I argued often and stiffly against it; for which I have had many checks, and complaints against me, and been under one setled Frown: But we Sign'd the Chapter-Book. Not always, for I had two or three times the Courage to refuse it (tho' threatned with Suspension.) 'Tis what we are oblig'd to by the 5th *Statute* (which does not leave a Salvo, if the Proceedings were fair and regular) and the Refusal might, and certainly would have been construe'd as Rebellion: Especially since all the other Acts of Chapter; (some for paying poor People their Money, others for buying Bibles, &c.) for the Church would be of no force.

But there is not a Syllable that signifies Approbation, only that such things were propos'd in Chapter, and carried by a Majority, (which we were always told, and the Counsel did not deny it be-

your Lordſhip, we were to be determin'd.) There are many other things which I never lik'd, (nay, I have ſcarce known one thing fairly carried, but either *by trick or force*, as I find my Predeceſſor and the late Eldeſt Siſter have alſo proteſted in the Chapter-Book) yet they ſign'd it, having paid dear under the former Maſter, for the refuſal. I never gave a Receipt for my ſhare, nor acknowledg'd a Payment in full; but if I had (with Submiſſion to your Lordſhip) it cannot be ſuppoſ'd, that we ſhould have done all the Work for Seven Years together (and 'tis as hard as any in Town, harder then many's who have 6 or 700 *l. per an.*) and not take one Penny for our Pains: For any one Receipt would have equally bar'd our Right; and ſo had Queen *Dowager*, (as ſhe might) out liv'd us) and during her time, we were abſolutely ſure to get no Redreſs, and it were madneſs to ſeek it) or the Maſter dy'd before us, we muſt have loſt every Farthing.

I Humbly conceive if a great Landlord, ſhould draw in a Poor Tenant (whom he can Ruin when he pleaſes.) To convey an Eſtate to him, for a 6th part of the known value, it will be look't on as Oppreſſion; and Equity (according to my notion of it) will relieve him: Eſpecially, if (as in our Caſe) it were not in his Power to convey it; for we cannot give away our Succeſſor's Right if we could our own.

Nor can I ſee how any default can be charg'd on us, and thereby our Claim to what the Law (for our Statutes are Law as good as an Act of Parliament to us,) has given us be precluded: 'Tis certain the Statutes were never notify'd to us; they were never read nor produc'd in Chapter; nor any Copy of them given out amongſt us; and *Promulgation* is on all hands confeſt neceſſary to make a Law binding: Nor was it poſſible for us, (who have neither leiſure nor means to ſtudy the Law;) to know what force our Statutes were of; whether or no the Maſter had Power to ſet them aſide: We knew the Queen *Dowager* was our Patroneſs and had a very great Power over us, (how great it was not poſſible for us to determine,) who could never come to the ſight of our Charters, any more than our Statutes and other Munim-nts: 'Twas plain the late *Viſitation* was made by *Her Commiſſion*, and ceas'd with it: and whether ſhe might grant the Earl of *F*——— who was her Chancellor, a Power equal or ſuperior to the Lord High Chancellor, *who reſpected us*, was more than we are able to determine.

Tho' if we had been meerly ſcar'd into Compliance, (for it is not to be thought that any would let their Bread be taken out of their Mouths, and accept of a 6th part of what ſhould be wholly their own, if they could any way help it): It is not to be wonder'd if two Poor *Parſons* were aw'd by a General of ſuch a formidable Stature and Aſpect, and fam'd for ſuch great Atchievements.

I am ſure the Caſe appears Foul, to all who hear it (which are not a few) and to the Actors themſelves; for they labour all they

can

can to ſtifle it; and all that they truſt to, and Glory in, is a ſuper
Intereſt to ours.

I muſt therefore earneſtly beſeech your Lordſhip to judge
tween us, and relieve us from ſuch Forreign Methods of oppreſ
(the like to which I never heard off in *Britain* theſe 20 Years)
I had rather owe all (under God) to your Lordſhip, being with
cere Duty.

Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble, Thankful and Obedient Serv
And Suitor. W. B.

His Lordſhip went ſoon after into the Country, and ſo all re
till *January* 1708 on the 12th of which Month, I ſent this Le
which forthwith obtained another hearing.

St. Katherine's Hoſpital, *January the* 12*th*, 1708.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip,

I Humbly conceive this way of Addreſs leaſt troubleſome, becau
Letter if it do not happen to hit, may wait your Lordſhip's lei
'Tis now almoſt two Years ſince I look't out for the Redreſs of
many, and great Grievances of our Church and Hoſpital under
unqualify'd Maſter I try'd at firſt to bring the Caſe before Her M
jeſty, and ſtop (if poſſible a Grant from her after the Death of
Queen *Dowager*, and hop't by the Intereſt of the Earl of *Sunderl*
and the Lord *Somers*, (who had been perſonally Injur'd, beſides the
front to the Office, and Authority of the Lord High Chancellor) to g
my point; and there was (I ſuppoſe) by their means a ſtoppage for ma
Months: At length the Maſter came among us again, and acted in
reſpects as before. Wherefore the beginning of laſt Year I app
my ſelf to your Lordſhip, and I think made out my Charge, fo
do not remember at the laſt hearing, that one clauſe of it was
ny'd, and I think it was as heavy as could be brought againſt a S
ject. No leſs then the Violation of all our Statutes, and the wr
ing both the Publick Stock, and particuar Members of many to
It has coſt me beſides my very great Pains, and Trouble, one way o
ther above 50 *l.* and yet I am but where I was, nay worſe.
Rule is ſtill in all the ſame hands, their Hatred againſt me now roo
and implacable: I am very ſure of all the Damage and Vexation t
can give me. We had laſt Year but 17 *l.* a piece, and yet do m
and harder Service than any Parſon in Town, for 3 or 400 *l.* and
are very ſure never to have one Penny that the Maſter and his In
ments, by all the artifice immaginable, can hinder us of. The
Beadswomen are ſtill oppreſt, and no Satisfaction made them:
ſhadow of Hoſpitality has been yet kept; tho' 'tis the only Reaſo
the Maſter's having more than us all, that if we have little Money
ſubſiſt on, we may have at leaſt a Table to go (otherwiſe 'twould
a very unfair Diviſion) I would not be preſſing upon your Lordſ
but after 11 Months, I would humbly deſire to know our Doom,

ea'd of the Pain of Suſpence. If your Lordſhip think fit that Maſter go off with his *Mammon of Unrighteouſneſs*, and have all Money which your Lordſhip has declar'd ſhould have been ours, we ſtarve on under the Arbitrary Goverament of a Free Soldier, muſt then pray for Patience, and wait till Providence ſhall relieve which that it may, be by your Lordſhips ſpeedy interpoſition on our alf, and (if it may conſiſt with your Lordſhip's Affairs, this leiſure erval before Term begins; is the Humble Requeſt of your Lord-'s moſt Dutiful Servant and Suppliant, *W. B.*

This Letter quickly obtain'd its end, for the next day but one, I re-ved this Anſwer from the Chief of his Lordſhip's Domeſticks.

SIR,

MY Lord Chancellor orders me to acquaint you that he hath your Letter, and he will make an end of your Affair, if he can to rrow Night at 5 a Clock: He hath order'd the Counſel, to attend alſo, when he deſigns to go through with the remaining Articles your Complaint.

Friday Morning, 9 a Clock. *I am, Sir, your Humble Servant* I. H.

Accordingly at the time appointed, his Lordſhip went thro' the reſt the Statutes. And I produc'd, and prov'd the Violations of them, one tittle that I can Remember being deny'd,) His Lordſhip when broke up, was pleas'd to ſay, [He would ſave our Hoſpital the rge of a Publick Viſitation, and now he ſaw how Matters ſtood ld conſider what to determine.]

But hearing no more about our matters, in 11 Weeks, I made bold pply my ſelf to his Lordſhip, by the following Letter.

St. Katherine's Hoſpital, *March* 30 1709.

With moſt Humble Submiſſion to your Lordſhip.

I Beg leave to remin'd your Lordſhip of our caſe, which has been now depending before Your Lordſhip 14 Months, and if I ſhould before any thing is done in it, my Wife and Child muſt ſuffer not ttle for my purſuit of Juſtice. Your Lordſhip is ſenſible I have e out my Charge to the utmoſt, for not one Clauſe was deny'd ſo much as colour'd. Your Lordſhip's ſees how the Brothers have wrong'd, as to the Rents, and that the Maſter refus'd to let them nal'd even when the Tenant has deſir'd it, (his deſign being to us Poor, that we may be more pliant, and paſſive.) And as to any of conſent on our part, it was meerly extorted, partly by the ters over bearing greatneſs, and partly by the falſe Arguments of Counſellors, who told us *we muſt be determin'd by the Majority, and the Lord Chancellor would approve what was done*: And how then ld we hope for Relief? It is wholly in your Lordſhip's Breaſt, who e the full, and ſole Power over Royal Foundations, and may as well at your own Houſe, as in our Chancel, (if Your Lordſhip be

ſatisfy'd

atisfy'd of the Fact) to relieve us. I am very ſure the Maſter diſcl
no Favour from Your Lordſhip, to whom he is far from being
Affected or even Civil, as alſo to the Lord *Somers*, and all ſuch L
ed and Ingenious Patriots and Pillars of the *Britiſh* Conſtitution;
all his fair Promiſes of Amendment, were but a Copy of his C
tenance, for there has not one ſtep been yet made by him, tow
a Reformation: And Your Lordſhip could not but obſerve both at
laſt and former hearing, that there were ſeveral Statutes, ſtill wh
neglected, that might have been Executed with eaſe, ſince the 1ſt Ab
if the Maſter had been but in good earneſt, and dealt Honour
with Your Lordſhip. And now tho' 11 Weeks are paſt ſince Y
Lordſhip was fully appriz'd of our matters, and has expreſt your ſe
of them; no Chapter has been call'd, nor any Advance or even P
miſe made to us of ſetting things right.

Our Salaries are not like to be rais'd theſe many Years, for
James Butler, about 11 Years ago, preſt and importun'd all
Tenants, whoſe Term was ſhorteſt, to come in, and the reſt hea
the preſent Maſter exercis'd *a diſpenſing Power over the Statutes*,
their opportunity ab nt 4 or 5 Years ago to renew: So that we h
none but what have a conſiderable time in their Leaſes good.
moſt Humbly Submit all to Your Lordſhip's Honourable Conſid
tion, only moving at this leaſure time for a Deciſion, which we do
not will be every way worthy of Your Lordſhip's Celebrated Wiſd
and Juſtice, and other great Accompliſhments.

I am Your Lordſhip's moſt Dutiful, and Obedient Suitor. W. B

Before I could have an Anſwer to this Letter, or any other Acc
the Maſter very unexpectedly, (for he was walking about in
Chamber juſt before,) dy'd on *April* the 8th: Upon which, I and
other Reſident Brother adviſ'd together, and drew up this ſhort M
morial to our Viſitor.

With moſt Humble ſubmiſſion to your Lordſhip,

SInce it has pleas'd God to make a Vacancy in our Hoſpital, by
Death of the late Maſter, we humbly Hope and Pray, that Y
Lordſhip will conſider our Hoſpital, as at this time actually u
Your Lordſhip's Inſpection: and make ſuch a Determination concer
us, that our Wrongs and Grievances, both Publick and Perſonal
be redreſt, our Conſtitution ſecur'd, our Subſiſtence out of the
venues provided for; and our Caſe ſo repreſented to Her Majeſty,
Your Lordſhip, (who are beſt able to do it,) as that a more fit and
ble Maſter, may be appointed us, who ſhall better Anſwer the Duti
his Place, and the Pious Deſigns of our Royal Foundreſſes.

And your Lordſhip's Petitioners (as in Duty bound)
ſhall ever Pray, for the Welfare of Your Lord-
ſhip, and Honourable Family.

William Biſſet.
Roſs Ley.

After this we had ſundry Reports about Town of a new Ma
Some ſaid one, and ſome another, but the Perſon who was pitch'd

her Majesty, dyed before his Patent past, and therefore I waited the Lord Chancellor, to desire his Lordship would move her Majesty to appoint another with all convenient speed, because we could new no Leases, nor consequently make Repairs, pay Debts, or relieve our selves any thing considerable, without one having reflected on what past between his Lordship and me at this and (soon after) another Conference. I made bold to impart my sense of it to his Lordship in the two Letters following.

St. Katherine's Hospital, *June* 24. 1709.

May it please Your Lordship,

Since I had the Honour of some discourse with Your Lordship, I find the necessity greater than I was appriz'd of at that time, having a Master without delay, for tho' our *Popish* General Officer were fit for his several places, he cannot receive the last Quarters rent; for the Printed Receipts are in the Name of the Brothers and Sisters, which cannot truly be given whilst there is no Master, and tho' we out of our 17 *l. per an.* might be suppos'd to have laid up something beforehand: The Sisters and Beadswomen (I am very sure) live but from hand to Mouth, and as they never did so cannot now stay a Fortnight for their stipens; and therefore if her Majesty do not present in that time, we Humbly hope Your Lordship will grant a Power to the Resident Brothers, to receive the Rents that the Poor Members be not Distrest.

Your Lordship will easily believe it was an astonishing surprize to me, to hear at last (if I did not greatly mistake Your Lordship) that after above two Years suit and attendance, my great Fatigues and Expences, and the full Proof of my charge, not one clause of which can deny'd, I'm even like to have my Labour for my Pains, (and truly another such Victory would almost undo me, that tho' it be plain even to Demonstration, that we have been wrong'd of 1000 *l.* which should have purchas'd us four Years ago, 100 *l. per an.* to compleat our Salaries, (besides the Common Stock) and no consent is pretended, but some misconstru'd appearance of it, which we were meerly bully'd into by Blustring Swords-men, yet the Marquiss of *Mirem*, &c, are like to go off with the Plunder of our Church, and Hospital, (to a Widow and Children, 'twould be somewhat more tolerable) and what should have provided Bread for our Families, must be spent on their Liveries and Equipages. A Single Minister can recover of the Executors, what he has been wrong'd of (and sure a Collegiate Church and Hospital, should have at least an equal Claim;) nor am I able to reach the Distinction, nor yet my Brother, who was bred some Years to the Law, that the one Case is Personal more than the other.

This very hard Case has compleatly cur'd me of the big Thoughts I had before entertain'd of our own Constitution, (for I have been

ſo happy as never to try, the Law or Equity of it before): A
convinc'd me that other Countries afford better relief (eſpecially
the Church and Poor) againſt barefac'd (and on all hands conf
Oppreſſion: For Your Lordſhip (as Viſitor) has told her Majeſty th
the Hoſpital has been greatly abus'd by the late Maſter, and would
ruin'd if we had ſuch another; and certainly ſuch abuſes call for
dreſs and Satisfaction: Eſpecially ſince the Earl of *Feverſham* was
live, and well many Weeks after the Facts were prov'd.

Your Lordſhip was pleas'd to ſend me Word by Dr. *Harris*, t
I was much to be Commended for ſtanding up as I have done,
Conſtitution: Alas, my Lord, a bare *Commiſſion* is but a poor amen
for the Pains and *Coſt* I have been at: And few will *Commend* me
my wit (what they may do for my Zeal) in throwing good Mo
after bad, and doing no real Service, (for ought I can ſee yet) to
ſelf, or the Publick, had I given over when ſome would have had
(tho' it ſoon appear'd that all their fair Promiſes of Reformation w
Sham, and Grimace,) what a deal of time, Sweat, and *Charge*, mi
I have ſav'd? And might have had a *Compenſation* too (for that
offer'd me if I would be quiet) for my Stable: And now I am like
have nothing even of the mean Profits, ſince the Maſter's Death,
which no one can have a better *Claim* than my ſelf, and my Brot
for ſure the next Maſter will have abundantly enough, (having d
the Hoſpital no Service) from the time of his Admiſſion.

However I have bought wit, (tho' extreamly dear) and truſt
the help of God, to make ſuch uſe of it, that it ſhall not be my Fa
if any after me engage in ſuch a fruitleſs Adventure.

God forbid I ſhould deſire Your Lordſhip to exceed the bounds
your Power, but I muſt needs ſay, *we are in Evil Caſe, (like Sh
among Wolves)* if an *Iriſh Papiſt*, can have not only ſuch ſway i
Proteſtant Church, but alſo pull down our Houſes, without *any Wa
or Warning*, (whatſoever our Title which I am fully ſatisfy'd in
Conſcience was good, tho' ſome Formality might be wanting) a
Fright our Families, as he did mine almoſt out of their ſenſes; an
this while the *French* and *Iriſh*, were coming upon our coaſt; and
no ſhadow of Redreſs to be had, tho' the Fact is declar'd by Y
Lordſhip to be *illegal and diſorderly*, and alſo an *Act of Revenge*,
appealing to the Juſtice of the Nation in Your Lordſhip: And
Lord Cheif Juſtice, from whom I ſought Protection at that ti
from *Popiſh* Malice, own'd it was an Outrage, and directed me to
Chapter or Your Lordſhip (as Viſitor) for relief. Your Lordſhip
pleas'd to ſay at our laſt hearing, [that you would ſave our Ho
the charge of a Publick Viſitation, and now you ſaw how ma
ſtood, would conſider what to determine] and the Lord *Somers*, wh
had given him an Account of what had paſt (for he as well as the
nity of Lord High *Chancellor* in general, had been ſhamefully in
told me that when the Parliament was up (it being the Week befo
might expect a Determination; but now I hear of no other like
made, but that all things continue in *ſtatu quo*, unleſs the next M

will mend them. And if he ſhould prove ſuch another at laſt (who promiſe wondrous things at his firſt coming, and has ſcapt too well to deter another from treading in his ſteps,) we muſt ſtill be as we have been, beggarly Slaves, and that to our meaneſt Servants.

My Lord,

I Apprehend the Freedom I uſe, may give offence, but loſers (and 'tis a ſlender amends) ſhould have leave to complain, eſpecially ſuch as ſeek no one's Favour, and aim at no more than to keep or recover their own, and are prepar'd rather then baſely to give up a *Right* or a *Truſt* to Sacrifice all; which Your Lordſhip knows is the Duty, and think the Reſolution of,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Obedient Servant,
And moſt reſpectful Suppliant.
W. Biſſet.

The other Letter with which I ſhall conclude this Narrative, and then I have delivered my Soul, whatever the Succeſs may be (which I wholly leave to God and my Superiors,) is of *June* 29th 1709.

May it pleaſe Your Lordſhip,

Have enclos'd (what Your Lordſhip wanted to ſee,) the Copies of Mr. *Lacy*'s ſeveral Patents as Receiver and Surveyor, tho' how he is qualify'd for Pluralities, I do not underſtand, unleſs by being a Catholick, and as ſuch fit for Univerſal Preferment.) That for Receiver, I ſuppoſe is void as being granted *contra formam ſtatuti.* [That for the time to come, no Receiver General be admitted into the ſaid Office, *till* he ſhall have given good Security.] But he was admitted and acted about nine Years without any, much leſs good Security, and in my Logick it follows that his Admiſſion was unſtatutable and conſequently null. And I am ſure 'twere ſtark Madneſs, (tho' he were a Proteſtant) to truſt him without Security, for he has neither Houſe or Land that we know of: Having been ſerv'd a Slippery Trick for want of Security but ten Years ago, for one who was intruſted to receive the Hoſpital Money, during the late Viſitation, dy'd ſome ſcore of Pounds in our Debt, and we could never recover a Groat. I ſtill hope Your Lordſhip will have ſo much Compaſſion on the Marquis of *M*———*t* Lord *Liff*—— *&c.* as to make the diſgorge the *gain of Oppreſſion*, which will otherwiſe prove a Curſe and Cauſer to the whole Eſtate, and like the Coal from the Altar, that ſet the neſt on Fire, conſume all the increaſe. If I were Executor, I ſhould never be eaſy, till I had rid my hands of the Sacriliglous booty, that the reſt might thrive; and I am confident they will ſubmit to whatſoever Your Lordſhip, ſhall either in a judicial or extrajudicial way appoint, for they expect ſuch a reckoning, as will as with the Parſon of *Homeby*.

However our wrongs are ſufficiently known all over the Town, and ſo far will a Determination be from ſeeming ſtrange, that the World will rather wonder if there ſhould be none, when the abuſes are ſo Notorious. And I Humbly hope Your Lordſhip will conſider, that *no Man goeth a warfare at his own charge*, and few have had

more or ſharper encounters of the kind then my ſelf. I believe t meaneſt Sollicitor, would ſcarce take the conſtant Pains for 100 which I have for 17 *l.* (beſides the other Duties of my place) th two Years and half. I have often watch'd till my Eyes, and wr till my Arms ak'd, yet never had half an Attorney's Fee, tho' have given many, and 'tis too hard for my ſhallow Pocket to ma tain, the Lord High Chancellor's Authority, without ſome Con butions, which I Humbly hope will be allow'd, *Your Lordſhips Dutiful, and Faithful Servant and Suitor.*

But firſt I would give fair warning, and not begin Hoſtili without either demand of Right, or Declaration of War. T Grand Difficulty was how to do it, having been ſo ſorrily welco before I had no great Stomach to his Lavel, and I had once wrote him upon a preſſing occaſion, and as I thought in reſpectful Terms, theſe excuſes would not paſs. I was preſently ſummon'd *Coram* at *Somerſet* Houſe, and told by his Adjutant to whom he gave Letter, (for he deſign'd not to ſpeak to me himſelf) that it look'd upon as Pride and Inſolence. Wherefore in *February* laſt ſent a Letter to the Receiver, (with whom I thought without bre of manners, I might make ſo bold,) and he I was ſure had the ſter's Ear.

SIR,

SInce our Chapter fail'd, and we may perhaps ſtay (as we h done more than once) above half a Year for another, I m make the ſame Demand of you, from whom we expect our Sala that I ſhould have made of the Maſter, had we met in Cha *viz.* That our full ſtipend be paid us of 10 *l.* a Quarter, from time my Lord *Guernſey*'s new Payment Commenc't. It was C pleated upon paſſing *Good*'s Leaſe almoſt three Years ago, and co derable over, even according to your own Reports and Surveys, our Statutes been obſerv'd, (and let the Maſter produce his diſ ſing Power, which I think even the Crown does not now C for ſetting them aſide.) 'Tis not fit that Members of a Church do all the Work belonging to it, ſhould ſtarve, while a Tem Lord ſweeps above half the Revenues, in his own Pocket, for d nothing but ſitting in Chapter two or three Hours, it may be in a Quarter, and gratifying his Friends by the diſpoſal of al places belonging to us; and I think 'tis moſt reaſonable he ſ ſtay and not we, (who have not ſubſiſtence) till the Biſhop's *Poynitz &c.* come in, and renew; for he had the gain by the fo abatements of Rent, and ſo much as we loſt in Rent, he got in as made it appear the laſt Chapter in the Biſhop's Caſe; if I re not a Satisfactory anſwer this Week, I ſhall directly apply m to our Viſitor for Redreſs; who 'tis likely may allot us, no our Future Payments but Arrears too. I'm ſure one, that w that ſtation told me, if he were in place he would do us right. may adviſe with the Maſter, if you think it worth the while: when I have once begun, no Pains, Perils nor coſt, ſhall diſco

till I have gain'd my Point, being fully reſolv'd either to win Horſe or looſe the Saddle, for unleſs my Place were worth ping, 'twere better loſt than kept.

St. Katherine's *Hoſpital*,
Feb. 9. 1707-8. I am *SIR*, &c.

I received no ſatisfactory Anſwer within the time, (which was a eek) only the Surveyor came once to Pump and Amuſe me, and erefore to be as good as my Word, on *Monday* the 17th of *Fe-uary*, I reſolv'd to pluck up a good Heart, and ſet a good Face on't, d try what might be done, and by a happy and well-timed Provi-nce, I met with an Ingenious and very Celebrated Gentleman, ho has a large ſhare of the Lord High Chancellor's Favour) and o' I had him not in my thoughts before I ſet out from home; nor had er Spoken to him in my Life; he was pleas'd upon the firſt hearing r *Caſe*, kindly to promiſe me his beſt Aſſiſtance, and I found him the full as good as his Word, he bad me draw it up in a Letter to m, and he would communicate it to the Lord Chancellor. I did ac-dingly the next day: But this being together with another Petiti-in form, directed immediately to the Lord High Chancellor, con-ining a full account of our *Caſe*, and enumerating our Wrongs and rievances in ſuch High and Honourable Hands, I will not preſume to bliſh them, but if I might, the World would be Amaz'd, that ſuch iolent and Arbitrary Practices could be found in a Free Nation.

On *Saturday* about Noon, when I began a little to droop and doubt the Succeſs, I receiv'd this moſt reviving Letter, which was as good a Cordial. I perſwade my ſelf the Learned Writer will not take it that I inſert it here, as being abſolutely neceſſary to my Vindication om the *Capital Charge* of Burglary and Sacriledge; for this is my ly Warrant, and a ſufficient Warrant for doing what I did.

SIR,

Had your Complaint, and your other Letter, and had not an op-portunity to acquaint my Lord with it till to Night: He received with his wonted Goodneſs, and will read it over by himſelf: In the ean time he declares himſelf very deſirous to do you all Juſtice, aſſoon he can underſtand the proper Method of Proceeding; in order to hich, he deſires to be inform'd of the Method and Form of your ſt Viſitation, and therefore ſince no doubt the Appeal and the Pro-ſs of that Viſitation muſt be enter'd in your Chapter Books, he would ſt ſee thoſe; and if your Clark refuſe to deliver them to you, on ur acquainting him with ſuch refuſal, he will ſend an Order to *mmand* them before him. Pray, Sir, therefore get him as much gular Light into the matter as you can, ſince he is at preſent a ranger to your Affairs, and you need not doubt but to have ſedulous ſtice from him, aſſoon as he hath any certain Method to proceed in. As to your *Chapter*, he ſaith, they muſt take care what they do there their Peril, ſince any Irregularities committed there will be over-

hauled

hauled in Court if a Viſitation enſue. I think you ſhould ſhew him a Copy of your Statutes, *&c.* you will find me ready in all things I can to Aſſiſt you; and any Morning till about Eleven you will find me where you did laſt.

Febr. 20. 8 p. m. *Yours*, &c.

Being thus Arm'd and Authoriz'd, I went with a good *Courage* to our *Chapter-Clark*'s *Chambers* in the *Temple*; he was not there, but finding the Books there, I demanded them of his *Clark*, ſhewing my Warrant; the Man was in a great ſtreight, he durſt not deny me, and was afraid to deliver without his Maſter's Order (tho' I had left word the day before, that I intended to come) he deſired me to ſtay a little, for his Maſter would be back in a few Minutes; ſeeing his *Concern*, I did ſtay about half an Hour (tho' I told him, I hazarded thereby the looſing my Labour, for the Party that ſhould receive them would be gone out, being ready Dreſt before I came away from the Lord Chancellors) at laſt I demanded a final Anſwer, and his Heart failing him, he went with our great Leger-Book; when we came (as I fear'd) the Party was gone, and the *Clark* would not venture to leave it with the Porter, and back it was carried.

The next Morning, *Febr* 25. I came again with the ſame Demand and found none but the *Clark* as before; he told me now the Maſter himſelf had been there, and left Poſitive Orders that it ſhould not be delivered, (a ſpecial *Compliment* to the Lord High Chancellor, and in him to the *Crown*) the *Clark* was then juſt going out with his Bag to St. *Katherine*'s to meet his Maſter there, and I told him whither I was going, *viz.* to the Lord High Chancellors with my Anſwer.

Before I came back, that great Exploit of razing my Stable was compleatly Atchiev'd without *Cannon* or *Mortar*, but had I been at Home (as I took the Freedom ſince to tell the Maſter, it ſhould not have been without Reſiſtance, which I humbly conceive Lawful, when (as I told him in *Chapter*) I was Plunder'd by Lawleſs Violence; and none of them offer'd to deny it, nay, it was own'd to be an Inciviliy. But to give a very ſhort Account of the Riſe of it, as I have of the Fall without which it is not eaſily to dive into the Merits of the Cauſe. And tho' the thing (I own) be not great, yet the Conſequences are. For if one Building of what ſort or ſize ſoever (that don't alter the Caſe) may be pull'd down without Legal Authority, and by Popular Hands (whoſe Authority I always thought cannot be Legal becauſe they are uncapable of any) why not another? And why not an Hundred? And why by purity of Reaſon, may not our Dwelling-Houſe be gutted (as in the Mobbing days) and as my Stable was, and then demoliſht? And ſo we may run on *ad infinitum*, till all property become Precarious, and we carry at laſt our very Lives in our Hands, (according to the Doctrine of the Bow-ſtring) to be taken away by the next Son of Violence: Having argu'd the Right, according to my ſhort views, I will briefly and truly ſtate the Fact.

There

There was a Stable and Coach-House formerly belonging to the Ma-
ter, (whose Duty it is, (and he may well afford it, he does little e-
ough for his Money) to reside among us, and bear a Commission of
he Peace, which is extremely wanted, and the want is an unexpres-
ible Damage to the Precinct, which makes Whores, and such wild
Cattle swarm among us) and keep Hospitality, and do good among
poor and disorderly People. Sir *James Butler*, when he remov'd
for he resided among us some Years) pull'd them down, dispos'd of
he Materials, and leas'd out the Ground. Now it happen'd about
hree Years ago, (while a Chapter was sitting) that some of our rude
Tarpawlin Mob broke one of the Master's Chariot-Glasses. Upon
hich our Surveyor mov'd in Chapter, twice or thrice, that a Stable
nd Coach-House might be built for the Master to set up, whenever
e came. An *Universal Silence* gave *Consent* (for who durst Oppose
?) tho' I knew our Stock was too low, or rather our Debts too
reat to afford it. Soon after I being pressingly invited to a Chap-
l above two Miles off, (where I was to be twice a Week) and con-
dering that Coach hire would make a large Article, and having
ne Horse before, I thought I might e'en as well keep Two, and
hen I should not be to seek for what often in our forlorn part of the
own is not to be had for Love or Money, especially when it Rains,
nd we need it most; and lighting of a very great Pennyworth of
Second-hand Chariot I bought it; and finding a Waste piece of
round near us, which was not only useless, but made a Common-
unghil, and so a Noysance to us. I built a large and handsom
able upon it, and made a Coach-House near it at my own Charge,
I thought I might reasonably do, when no one was Wrong'd or
grievd by it, and the Place both Beautify'd and Fortify'd; espe-
ally having been for some Years the only Resident, and born all
he Burthen (without the least Contribution from the Master, and the
ther Two) which both my Purse and Body sufficiently felt, and
herefore had the best Title of any to so small a Priviledge. I ac-
inted the Chapter next time they met (which was soon after)
hat I had done; and offer'd to surrended my Buildings to the
Master's Use whenever one should reside, and that in the mean while
ey should be ready for his Service whenever he should Honour us
ith his Presence: (only desiring some Contribution, what they
leas'd, towards my Expence,) that was flatly deny'd me, and I
quiesc'd; assoon as we rose, they all went and view'd and lik'd
; and the Master did me the Honour to tell me how I might make
somewhat more Commodious; and there was not a Syllable more
id of the Matter, till *February* 25. when being return'd from the
ord Chancellor's, my Maid came in a great Fright, crying, *Sir,*
r, They are pulling down your Stable, and indeed 'twas half done
e any of us were aware. I did with some difficulty recollect my
f, and considering 'twas too late to retreive my Loss, *and when*
e Steed was stoln to shut the Stable Door: I vented my Passion
a little Raillery, *Asking him*, What he design'd to do with the
Materi-

Materials? Whether to build a *Mass-House* with it, or some ot
Accommodations for the *Dear-Joys* that were coming from *Du*
to Invade us; for I could scarce imagine, if he did not hope to m
them, he would have adventur'd upon so Unwarrantable an Act
Being come pretty well to my self, I demanded his Order, (
one of the Workmen that us'd to do Business for the Hospital be
employed) which I found so full of Teaguisms, and Tautologi
notorious Falshoods in Fact, and by his own Confession flat Nonse
that I begun to smell a Rat, and suspect what I am since satisfy'd
that it was a kind of Forgery, being neither made in, nor by
Chapter, as the Title falsly imported, but after the Chapter
risen and gone; and it was some Satisfaction to me, to find I was
a Member of so unthinking and so disorderly a Society as I at
suspected. I am since convinc'd that the best Authority he
(which I believe will not bear him Harmless) was the Master's V
bal Command (so unhappy is it for poor People, averse from W
to be under the Government of a great Commander:) But sup
fing it were the Chapter's ACT, it was an illegal one, and as
ipso facto void, for we have an expres Statute. [To the end
thing may be done surreptitiously at any Chapter to the Prejudic
the Hospital, all Acts agreed upon at any Chapter, shall be del
rately Read over and reconsider'd at the next Chapter, to the end
same may be approv'd and alter'd; and the same being so appr
or alter'd, shall be enter'd and Sign'd by the Master, Brothers and
sters.] Whereas this was propos'd, concluded, and executed a
one Chapter, and within three or four Hours time, (but indeed t
knew nothing of any such Statute:) Finding how Matters fu
on *March* the 1st, I brought our Catholick before the Lord C
Justice, having first made this Affidavit before Justice *Smith*, in G
man's Fields, little suspecting 'twould bring a Wooden Ruff, an
Stone Doublet on my Back.

William Bisset, Clerg. *Jonathan Beasand*, *Mary Biggs*, *Mary Crisby*, make Oath, that on the 25th of *Febru* *Patrick Lacy*, a REPUTED PAPIST, did notori Assemble, in the Precinct of St. *Katherine's*, near the *Tower* of *don*, with several others whose Names we know not, and did and there Demolish and cause to be pull'd Down a large Stabl considerable Value, without any Legal Process or Authority, as Deponents do verily Believe.

Jurat. coram. Rogero Smith.
Martii 1o. 1708.

Upon hearing the Matter, my Lord was sensible they had unduely, by seeing the Chapter-Book Unsigned, and nothing hasty Scribble to shew, and the Order which the Surveyor pro for his Warrant, Sign'd indeed by the Chapter Clark, but before

d up, as I prov'd, and blank Warrants are ſcarce ſufficient, even the Hands of a Conſtable, much leſs of a PAPIST, (who is not alify'd for a Scavenger) for pulling a Man's Houſe (whether Dwel-ge, or Out-Houſe) down. My Lord thought the Matter fell not roperly under his Cognizance, becauſe we were a Collegiate Body, d as ſuch a Private Family. Tho' had I in the leaſt ſuſpected that ſhould looſe the Common Protect on, and Relief of the Law, from OPISH-FURY by my removal hither: I would have conti-'d among the *Secular* Clergy all my Days, and never turn'd *Regu-* to be Rul'd without Rules, and Rob'd without Remedy, but have y'd till I were Sick, or Lame, or paſt my Labour, before I would er have become a Member of a Religious-Houſe, or an Hoſpital; in e, my Lord bad me complain to the Chapper, and askt me, why was not there to prevent it: I told him, becauſe I was at that time ne to the Lord Chancellors by his Order, made my complaint to e Chapter, and have thrice deſired Reparation for the Damage I re ſuſtain'd, but the Maſter would give me no Anſwer, but this or to him I directed my Speech, as being the Author of my Calami-s, and the Spring of theſe eccentrick Motions) *That I muſt take Remedy where I can find it:* And an hopeful piece of Work I am e to make of it, to go to Law with a Peer, and two Counſellors, o know all the Windings and Turnings of that Intricate La-rinth, and can lead me ſuch a Dance, that I may be quite bewild-d and beggar'd too, before I can find my way out, (tho' the Author them have deny'd, but the Fact is illegal, and the Surveyor offer'd firſt, (when he knew I had been for a Warrant,) to Build it again, t I thought that look'd like Smugling, by which I might incur a ſini-r Suſpicion, as making *my ſelf Friends of the Mammon of Unright-uſneſs* at that time of day. But ſince he has ſcap'd that ſcowring or he was in a terrible Fright when I brought the Warrant firſt to m) he is grown as Uppiſh and Malapert as ever, and inſtead of fering me amends, nothing leſs than my Ears will content him. I ow he has Triumpht mightily, how he came off, and how much I as Mortify'd, and to my certain knowledge greatly miſrepreſented hat paſt (for there was none but he and my ſelf with his Lordſhip.) is main Cavil againſt me, was how I knew him to be a PAPIST, ecauſe I never ſaw him at Maſs, I only Swore he was a Reputed one, hich I could very ſafely do, and he never offer'd to deny the one or e other. I do own my Lord ſaid thus much (or elſe I had Indited m at Seſſions) *he wonder'd I ſhould think this a Criminal Caſe.* I do elieve it is not now becauſe his Lordſhip (who knows beſt) has told e ſo, but I greatly wonder it ſhould not be ſo, that the Law has ade no Proviſion to keep our Churches out of their Hands, eſpeci-y ſince they are excluded from the Bar, which is not ſurely the more cred Place of the too, tho' I grant 'tis a place where they may do ore Miſchief. I was indeed ſuch an *Ignoramus* in the Law, as to ink it might poſſibly be Criminal for a PAPIST (eſpecially at that me of Day) to hold two Offices in a Proteſtant Church; by vir-

tne of which he diſpoſes of all our Pews, and buys all our Chu
Ornaments, Books, &c. (and by good Token, we have not had t
Prayer for the Allies theſe Three Years:) And tho' we do not m
fear his Blowing us up, becauſe we lie too low and damp, yet bei
our Surveyor (and no Repairs can be had without his leave) he m
let the Church fall on our Heads, as indeed 'tis ready to do, for m
ny great Stones fell lately juſt at our Chancel-Door, where the B
thers go in, and were within a few Minutes of Knocking our Br
out. But the worſt is, if his Country Men, had given us the v
we expected, he being *Major Domo* (to make 'em welcome after
long a parting) might have delivered 'em poſſeſſion of our *Chu*
and Hoſpital, and when once Sir *Teague*, and the reſt of his *Broth*
Havelings, from St. *Omers*, had got induction from the proper O
cer, we ſhould have been hard put to it (for they are wondrous l
to return to their *Bogs* and their *Brogues*, when they are got i
better Quarters) to get them out again, and to all Abbeys and M
naſteries (as ours once was) they think they have an indefeaſi
Right: Becauſe their Anceſtors in the *Romiſh* Faith built the
and they look upon themſelves as greatly wronged that they h
been kept ſo long out of their Hands (as 'tis ſaid.) To conclu
diſmiſt we were; I ſome what daſht, and he as much Fluſht, and i
ſtrange fit of kindneſs (tranſported with his imaginary Victo
would needs make me his Country-Man, whether I would or n
(for I never was fond of the Honour:) nothing would ſerve bu
muſt be, Ay, Marry muſt I; an *Iriſh Evidence*, nay to prefer
higher, yet he would be at the Charge and Trouble to get
dub'd, tho' not one of the *Pope's Knights* (an Honour too great
ſuch an harden'd Heretick Prieſt) yet what is the next Degree
Honour and bears ſo near Affinity, that 'tis not eaſy to diſtingu
their Coats) a *Knight of the Poſt*. So off went he as he thoug
with flying Colours, whilſt Poor Pil-Garlick was fain to ſneak
way with an heavy Heart, and a lighter Purſe, having thrown g
Money after Bad, and eſpecially (what was moſt likely to raiſe
ſpleen and enflame the reckoning,) with the diſmal Proſpect of
ing forced to define a Chargeable Proſecution, which (if I w
caſt) might poſſibly leave neither penny in my Purſe, nor Ears
my Pate, *all theſe things were againſt me.* However to m
the beſt of a Baffle as *Louis le Grand* always does, and let him
I had ſome Mettal left ſtill (tho' little, very little of the ſhin
ſort.) I ſent him this *Bravado*, which *alamode de France* ſhall br
up the rear after a ſcurvy Defeat.

St. Katherine's *March 1ſt.* 177-8.

SIR,

I Should be even aſtoniſht at the ſtrength of your brow, (w
there not a certain Nation Famous for it even to a Prov
for a Perſon ſo Obnoxious in the Chambers of ſo great a M
ſtra

ate, as if you had already compleatly got, or were absolutely
e that the Young Spark, that is come from St. *Germain*, to *Dun-*
k to invade us, would get the Day; to Triumph, insult and cry
bbling, Perjury, &c. when your known Principle is that *no Faith*
to be kept with Hereticks, and so perjury is not only Tolerated,
Consecrated among you, and a Relation of my Wife, who was
ly perverted to Popery, told me downright, that *they think it*
r Duty, if they can to destroy us. The more's the Pity, that such
rn Enemies of the *Protestant*, and *British* Interest should have
ces; and preferments in our Church; and Power to domineer
r us with Impunity. But if one won't another will: All that
got (notwithstanding the Intreagues to Baffle, and Brow beat
, and to puzzle the cause) was that my Lord. *C. F.* would not
e Cognizance, of the Irregular Practices, and disorders Com-
ted in an Hospital or *Collegiate Body* (a Notion new and strange
me) but leave 'em to our Visitor; and (God be praised) he will
tly look into them, and then I doubt not among other Foul a-
es, the Illegality Malice, and Insolence of your sham-order, which
s first sign'd and drawn, (tho' you had fair Warning to take
e what you did, then at your Peril, since any Irregularities Com-
ted would be overhauld in Court, and the Nullity of your
wer, for that act of Violence, (if you be by Law Capable of
Offices in our Church) as also your Riot, and my Remedy, will
y appear. In the mean while take and welcome to your As-
nce, all the *Popish* Counsel both there and at *Somerset* House,
get Contributions out of the St. *Germain Fund*, to prosecute
Perjury you have smelt out; and more than that Print and
blish the Affidavit, and send a Copy of it to every Partisan of
him in *Britain*, and to make it yet more publick, let your
mpion put it into the *Rehearsal*, and you shall have the free
sent of your *Humble Servant*, (*tho' you should be ours, and not*
agree us)

William Bisset.

FINIS.